CLAIMS

The invention claimed is:

1. A media system comprising:

a video system comprising:

5   a video screen

a screen generator connected to the video screen and comprising

programming to flash the video screen to convey channel identification

information via a predetermined serial protocol; and

a remote control comprising:

10   an optical receiver connected to receive the video screen flashes and

convert them to an electrical signal, and

a controller connected to the optical receiver for decoding the electrical

signal, whereby the channel identification information may be conveyed to the

remote control.

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2. The media system of Claim 1, wherein the video screen is operably connected to flash

light and dark screens.

3. A set top box for use in a media system, comprising:

20   a screen generator adapted to be connected to a video screen and cause the video

screen to flash; and

a controller connected to the generator and comprising programming for causing

the video screen to flash channel identification information using a predetermined serial

protocol.

4. A remote control comprising:

an optical receiver for receiving visible light and converting the light to an electrical signal;

5   a controller connected to the optical receiver and comprising programming for decoding the electrical signal to obtain channel identification information; and

programming for transmitting a request for channel identification information via an IR transmitter.

10   5. A method of editing a favorite channel table in a remote control, the method comprising:

transmitting from the remote control to a video system a channel identification request;

receiving through an optical receiver in the remote control a series of video screen 15   flashes;

decoding the series of video screen flashes to determine the channel identification; and

modifying the favorite channel table in the remote control with the channel identification.

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6. The method of Claim 5, wherein modifying the favorite channel table comprises deleting from the favorite channel table a channel corresponding to the channel identification.

7. The method of Claim 5, wherein modifying the favorite channel table comprises adding to the favorite channel table a channel corresponding to the channel identification.

8. A computer readable medium for use in a remote control, the medium comprising

5   programming for:

transmitting via IR a channel request to a video system;

determining a channel based upon a series of video screen flashes transmitted by the video system and received by an optical receiver in the remote control; and

modifying a favorite channel table stored in memory of the remote control with

10   the determined channel.

9. The medium of Claim 8, comprising programming for:

sensing a user activating a predetermined key input on the remote control;

initiating the transmission of the channel request in response to sensing the

15   predetermined key input; and

basing the programming for modifying the favorite channel table on the

predetermined key input.

10. The medium of Claim 9, wherein the predetermined key input consists of a single

20   key input.

11. The medium of Claim 10, wherein the programming for modifying the favorite channel table comprises programming for adding to the table a channel corresponding to the determined channel.

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